# What is ranked-choice voting?

Ranked-choice voting allows San Francisco voters to rank a first, second, and third choice candidate for a single office. This makes it possible to elect local officials by majority vote without the need for a separate run-off election.

# Who is elected using ranked-choice voting?

Starting in November 2004, San Francisco will use ranked-choice voting to elect most local officials. Ranked-choice voting does not affect the election of State and federal officials or the adoption of ballot measures.

# How does ranked-choice voting work?

To start, every voter's first-choice vote is counted. Any candidate who receives a majority (more than 50%) of the first-choice votes is declared the winner. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, a process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes begins:

- **First,** the candidate who received the fewest number of first-choice votes is eliminated from the race.
- Second, voters who selected the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their vote transferred to their second choice.
- Third, all the votes are recounted.
- Fourth, if any candidate receives more than 50% of the votes he or she is declared the winner. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, the process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes is repeated until one candidate has a winning majority.



### The Ranked-Choice Ballot

This brochure shows a sample ranked-choice ballot. This fall, the exact ballot you will see at the polling place will be on the Department's website and in your voter information pamphlet.

## **How To Find Out More**

For more information on ranked-choice voting please contact the Department of Elections.

**Stop by:** The Department of Elections

City Hall, Room 48

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, California 94102

**Call:** English: (415) 554-4375

Chinese: (415) 554-4367 Spanish: (415) 554-4366

TDD: (415) 554-4386

Visit Our Website: www.sfgov.org/election

# Ranked-Choice Voting **Explained**

# Marking the Ranked-Choice Ballot

# **First Column**

Select your first-choice candidate by completing the arrow pointing to your choice.

# **Second Column**

To indicate a second choice, select a *different* candidate in the second column by completing the arrow pointing to your choice.

# **Third Column**

To indicate a third choice, select a *different* candidate in the third column by completing the arrow pointing to your choice.

# **Keep In Mind**

Your second choice will be counted only if your first-choice candidate has been eliminated. Your third choice will be counted only if both your first-choice and second-choice candidates have been eliminated.

If you select the same candidate in more than one column, your vote for that candidate will count ONLY ONCE.

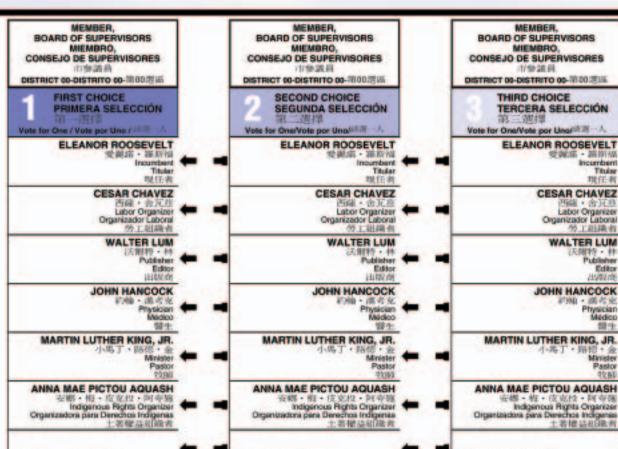


WRITE-IN / NO LISTAGO / ITT.





WHITE-IN / NO USTADO / TEX



WRITE-IN/ NO LISTADO! TEX



Complete the arrow as shown here.

# **Write-In Candidates**

If you wish to vote for a qualified write-in candidate for any of your three choices, write the person's name on the blank line provided and complete the arrow pointing to your choice.